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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
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OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 10 April 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter from Mr. A. Zlenko, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, of 9 April 1992, in which the developments around the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet are brought to your attention (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 69 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Ukraine
to the United Nations

* A/47/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 9 April 1992 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine to the Secretary-General

Translation from Ukrainian

The circumstances which have arisen from the situation around the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet compel me to send you this letter.

Recently, certain high-ranking officials of Russia and the mass media have undertaken attempts to interfere rudely into the internal affairs of Ukraine. The legislative acts of Ukraine on the creation of its own Armed Forces, adopted in accordance with international agreements, signed by the Heads of States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), are being ignored. The appeals that provoke political and social discontent and inflame national hatred are being spread among the personnel of the Fleet.

We cannot leave these actions without attention because they instigate among the servicemen malevolent feelings towards the sovereign State on the territory of which they are deployed and where almost all of the Black Sea Fleet forces are based. The situation around the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet has aggravated further, and dangerous developments emerged after certain leaders of the Russian Federation had resorted to actions which might be regarded as irresponsible and illegitimate.

During his trip to Sevastopol on 4 April, Mr. A. Rutskoi, the Vice-President of the Russian Federation, called for the separation of the Republic of Crimea from Ukraine. Such actions contradict international law and might be regarded only as purposeful attempts to undermine the territorial integrity of a sovereign Member State of the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), as the breach of the international commitments pledged by the Russian Federation under the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Agreement on the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Treaty between RSFSR and the Ukrainian SSR of 19 November 1990, as well as other Ukrainian-Russian accords.

On 7 April, the President of Russia, Mr. B. Yeltsin, issued the Decree on the transfer of the Black Sea Fleet under the jurisdiction of the Russian Federation, while this Fleet is registered at the bases located in Ukraine and is under the jurisdiction of Ukraine. An attempt was undertaken to extend the application of the Decree to the territory of the other State - Ukraine. This contradicts the universally recognized norms of international law, since normative acts of one State have no exterritorial effect and cannot be extended to the territory of another State.

The issuance of this Decree is a flagrant violation of the sovereignty of Ukraine, an interference into its internal affairs, and it provokes a serious situation of conflict.

Trying to lay groundless claims to the Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet, some politicians create the image of an enemy out of Ukraine, and thus seed distrust and heighten tension in relations between the two fraternal nations.

Concerned with the safeguarding of its national security, Ukraine strives to solve all the problems in the spirit of the principles of international law. Any other approach would contradict the national interests of Ukraine and Russia, as well as the friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries.

At present, when Europe and the world at large are getting free from the burdensome inheritance of the past, the obvious disregard by any State of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations creates new dangerous precedents in international relations. It conceals a threat to the system of international security, which being established nowadays through the persistent efforts of the world community.

Informing you, Mr. Secretary-General, about our position we count upon your understanding and cooperation.